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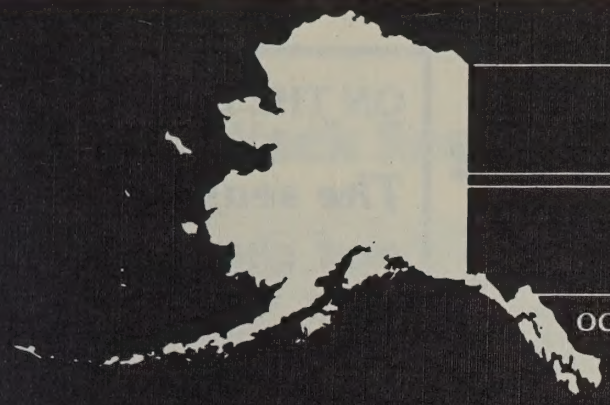
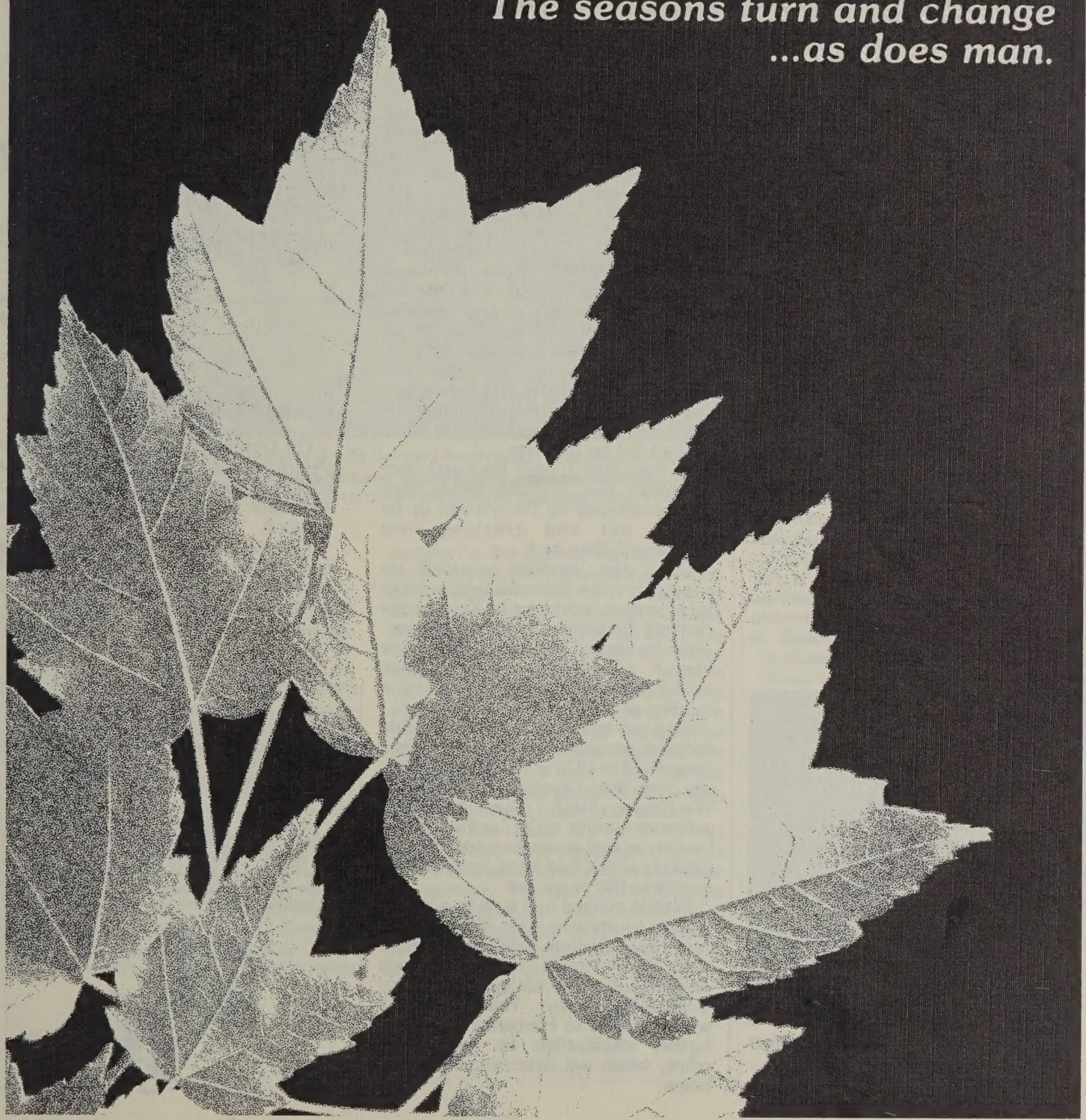


ALASKA PEOPLE

OCTOBER 1985 VOLUME VII NUMBER XI

The seasons turn and change ...as does man.



Boden Takes Helm Of Public Service Organization

by Joette Storm

With the snip of a tie and a little ceremony, Wayne Boden, Anchorage district manager, was recently installed as president of the University Kiwanis Club. Doing the honors was James Ebe of Whitehorse, Y.T., lieutenant governor of the Alaska-Yukon Division of Kiwanis International. Also on hand was Don Williams of Berea, Ohio, international president Kiwanis, who was visiting Alaska for the first time.

It was Williams' tie that took the shearing from Boden, who says it is a Kiwanis tradition to get a meeting going by some such antic. "The tie was actually mine," says Boden, who had switched it with Williams' own earlier in the day.

Kiwanis International is an organization dedicated to community service. It is also a network for professional men which provides them access to other leaders in their community. Individual clubs raise money for charitable purposes and contribute time as well.

Boden has been involved in the organization for eight years, including a term as president of the Medford, Ore., club while serving with BLM there. His favorite project is a fund-raising effort conducted during Anchorage's Fur Rendezvous celebration for which he dons a Keystone Cop's uniform to arrest dignitaries and exact fines to support the club's charitable work.

Wayne Boden is installed as president of the University Kiwanis Club.

Elmer's Glue To The Rescue

by Joette Storm

It's not every day that a 10,000-year-old piece of ivory is delivered to one's doorstep; but when it is, any self-respecting archaeologist has to be prepared to deal with it. In Bob King's case he ordered a variety of supplies, including Elmer's glue, Varathane, an air brush and other cleaning tools, to do the job of stabilizing several mammoth tusks.

The tusks were illegally removed in 1984 from the Colville River in northern Alaska and subsequently turned over to BLM's law enforcement officer, Dean Crabbs. After a brief period of storage while the BLM determined what should be done with the ancient tusks, King, who works at the Anchorage District Office, was requested to stabilize them.

King and Beth Walton, a state office archaeologist, invited Gary Sellinger of the University of Alaska to examine the tusks and confer on various techniques for preservation. While Sellinger felt they were interesting, he said the tusks were not extraordinary. The pieces were not fossilized, according to King, but were beginning to mineralize, probably from contact with minerals in the surrounding permafrost where the tusks had been frozen before being washed out by the river.

"If they hadn't been removed from the water, they probably would have been destroyed by the current or by drying out and cracking into fragments," King said.

Once the weather warmed up enough to move the tusks from storage to a proper work area, King began cleaning them with a brush and air hose. Next he applied 15 coats of Varathane varnish at different dilutions, then sealed remaining major cracks with a solution of Elmer's glue.

King was fortunate to have had some earlier experience in preservation when he worked in 1970 at the Ozette village site on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. There he helped preserve ancient cedar bark mats and baskets as well as wood and whale bone artifacts which had been covered by a mud flow 500 years ago.

Walton treated one tusk in a similar fashion to prepare it for display in the Anchorage Federal Building. Another piece was loaned to the geology department at Anchorage Community College for display. The other tusks were returned to Fairbanks in July for further stabilization by the district office, which will determine their final home.

ON THE COVER:

The seasons turn and change as does man.
The seasons sleep to rejuvenate themselves, as man must fashion his thinking to compensate for ...Time, That master of change.

- Author Unknown -

Interchange Update

On October 8, State Director Mike Penfold presented a video tape on the effects of the interchange on Alaska to members of the Alaska Land Use Council.

Nationwide, the Washington Office interchange team is putting together legislation for consideration by Congress in the upcoming session.

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Hispanic Week Recognizes Youth

Anchorage City Manager Robert Smith (second from right) presented outstanding achievement awards to students (l to r) John Lewis, Sandra Moreno, Jason DeHoyos and Javier Gonzalez at an awards breakfast at the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Week.

by Norma DeBaker

"A Salute to Youth" was the theme of this year's National Hispanic Heritage Week.

In the opening ceremony on September 15, the outstanding achievements of four local Hispanic youth were recognized; awards were presented to John Lewis, Xavier Gonzalez, Jason DeHoyos, and Sandra Moreno. Other presentations were made to members of the Federal Executive Association (FEA) and the community for their efforts on behalf of Hispanic Americans. Also, the president's and mayor's proclamations were read to those attending, including supervisors, managers, and directors from agencies in the Anchorage area.

Six brightly decorated booths were installed in the Federal Building atrium to call attention to the week's festivities. Individuals from the Hispanic community brought in items from their homelands including Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Spain, and other Latin American countries. Ramon Garcia and KSKA radio produced a Hispanic music tape to lend a festive mood to the scene. La Tienda (The Store), displayed items available for purchase ranging from Julio Eglesias records to canned goods from Mexico, Puerto Rico and other countries.

The FEA would like to thank the many people who participated in this year's Hispanic Heritage Week to make it a success. This marks the 17th year that the president has proclaimed a week to remind us all of the Hispanic heritage which has contributed so much to our nation's growth.

Commissioner Likens Women To Natural Resources

by Joette Storm

Commissioner of Natural Resources Esther Wunnicke likened women to natural resources in her speech to the Anchorage District Federal Women's Program in September. "They are undiscovered and often underdeveloped," said Wunnicke, a former BLM Minerals Management Service director.

As one of three women commissioners in Gov. Bill Sheffield's cabinet, the former attorney said she won't feel there is parity until women have 51 percent representation in management positions. But she agreed that women in Alaska are making strides in achieving parity.

Wunnicke gave the audience her four precepts for moving up the ladder in their careers. "One needs credentials, competence, communications and courage," she said. "Many women not only have the credentials, they are overqualified; but they may not communicate their ability or be willing to take the risks necessary. One has to take risks in order to gain responsibility."

She urged her women listeners to learn to delegate responsibility, saying that failure to do so will limit their advancement.

"We also must learn to acknowledge our teammates and worthy opponents," she said. "This is something little boys learn early in life as a part of team sports, and it is a valuable aspect of communication."

Saying her present job as manager of the state of Alaska's vast natural resources is her biggest challenge, Wunnicke theorized that women make good natural resource managers because they usually don't specialize too early in life, they develop a multiplicity of skills, and are good at 'reading others.' "I also believe that because of their role as homemakers, many women are true conservators, looking ahead to the future."

Wunnicke is one of several speakers brought to the Anchorage District by the Federal Women's Program Committee this year.

SCA Volunteers

Finding a job in the resources field, especially in the federal government, can be difficult for a college graduate with no practical field experience. Why not gain that experience in a degree-related field while spending the summer learning about BLM in Alaska?

by Sharon Wilson
photo by Sharon Wilson

SCA volunteer Suzann Willhite tests the water quality at BLM's Cripple Creek Campground.

This past summer the Fairbanks District Office hosted four college students from the Student Conservation Association program, reaping the benefits of extra help in the field during a time of budget austerity.

John Cook, an archeologist with the Arctic Resource Area, supervised and guided two SCA volunteers through a summer of collecting bones and artifacts. With a B.A. in anthropology and minors in archeology and Spanish from Washington University/St. Louis, Julie Schmidt spent most of her summer in the field looking for artifacts. "I didn't find very many," said Schmidt, "but I certainly did increase my knowledge of prehistoric animal fossils."

Paul Wagner, who will return to Juniata College in Pennsylvania to complete a degree in geology and biology with an emphasis on natural history, found that while the work in Fairbanks was a little different from his studies, it was very meaningful and made him aware of different areas of study.

Wagner studied invertebrate paleontology, and Schmidt studied human osteology. The work at FDO involved vertebrate paleontology, but both students found their backgrounds enabled them to adapt quickly. Upon arrival in Fairbanks, Wagner and Schmidt attended a short training session with staff members of the University of Alaska Museum on the paleontological material they could expect to find in Interior Alaska.

At the end of the summer field season, Wagner and Schmidt were busily sorting and boxing the nearly 2,000 bones they had collected. The majority of these finds will eventually be sent to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Museum to improve both the quantity and quality of its collection. With additional statistics available from the study of the bones of many different animals from many different areas, it will be possible to make more accurate assumptions about climatic and vegetative conditions where the animals lived.

One significant find was the fossil of a prehistoric wolf at Lost Chicken Mine in the Fortymile area. They also recovered fossils of an American lion, which are rarely found in Interior Alaska. The usual bones encountered in the Interior are from horses, caribou and mammoth. More bones seem to be found in the Lost Chicken Mine area because it has the deepest muck bank of the mines and the thickest sediment deposits.

The bones of a Pleistocene elk were found at Lillian Creek in the Livengood area. It was larger than today's elk, possessing an eight-foot antler span. "We also found this massive bison bone," said Schmidt, holding up a huge leg bone. "It is much bigger than the usual bison bones we have seen."

Both SCA volunteers enjoyed the summer immensely. "We saw a lot of country, collected numerous bones, and met a lot of miners," said Wagner. "The miners were friendly and cooperative. They don't seem to get too many visitors." Both felt the summer work had been worthwhile.

Tom Dew, outdoor recreation planner for Yukon Resource Area, also sponsored two SCA volunteers. Bright-eyed and excited, both Suzann Willhite and Mike Tully spoke glowingly of their summer in Alaska. Nearing completion of a degree in recreation resource management from the College of Forestry, University of Minnesota/St. Paul campus, Willhite welcomed the opportunity to gain experience in the field.

Help Alaska BLM

What Is The SCA?

When Elizabeth Titus wrote a college paper in 1955 which outlined a program to develop a private conservation organization inspired by the CCC of the 1930s, little did she realize the spectacular results that would occur from her efforts in a then forgotten cause.

The program began in 1957 with students performing volunteer work in Olympic and Grand Teton national parks. Today, almost 30 years later, the Student Conservation Association is the largest private, non-profit organization devoted to placing high school and college students into working situations with natural resource management agencies. More than 11,000 young men and women have received invaluable work experience to date, and the association budget is now approximately $2,000,000 per year. Most of this money is spent directly on the students as the full time staff numbers only 25.

SCA basically serves as a coordinator; it contacts agencies at the federal, state and local level to find out their needs for volunteer work and then matches the responses to their student application file.

The program has grown consistently through the years and is now a year-round operation. In 1985 SCA provided opportunities for 450 high school and 852 college students to work in 207 locations nationwide. Jobs varied from clearing trail in the Olympic forest, working a visitor center information desk in Yellowstone, assisting in range analysis studies in Wyoming, to giving glass-bottom boat tours in Florida.

With most agencies facing shrinking budgets in the 1980s, the association is unable to fill all the requests for assistance that it receives.

Since SCA is a private organization, its funding is based on corporate and civic donations as well as donations from SCA alumni and friends. This money pays the staff and supplies part of the expense for placing a student in the field. Agencies receiving the volunteer provide matching funds and usually arrange housing. SCA pays a weekly food allowance and transportation costs to the volunteer.

Prior volunteer work is now almost essential to break into the highly competitive, paying summer jobs in most national parks and even some forests. Volunteers also benefit by developing new jobs skills, dealing with groups of people (both co-workers and the public), and learning about lifestyles in different parts of the country.

Individuals wishing more information should contact the SCA and specify whether you are interested in the high school or college programs. Applications for spring positions must be received by January 15, and summer applications must be received by March 1. Their address is:

Student Conservation Association
Box 550
Charleston, NH 03603

Both students enjoyed working not only with Dew on recreation projects but with the other specialists in the resource area. "Instead of sticking us on strictly recreation projects, the staff here allowed us to see how the different disciplines are interwoven with recreation. None stands alone; they are all interrelated," said Tully. He felt that the people in the Yukon Resource Area showed them how a diversified staff can work as an experienced team while conducting individual field work efforts.

Willhite and Tully were involved in many district projects. They assisted in completion of the off-road vehicle plans required by the Steese/White Mountain plans, including the installation of signs stating restrictions on the ORV trails. They helped with construction and finished work on the new recreational cabin at Windy Gap in the White Mountains National Recreation Area and mapped out and flagged trails to be cleared at the Fred Blixt cabin on the Elliott Highway. They hiked the Pinnell Mountain Trail to check the need for a boardwalk, which smokejumpers installed during the slack part of the fire season.

Going further afield, Willhite and Tully traveled the Dalton Highway to Coldfoot, checking recreational opportunities along the Utility Corridor and visiting local miners and their operations. They completed campground maintenance along the Steese Highway and delivered supplies to the guard station in Chicken. While floating the Birch and Beaver creeks, they found the recreational opportunities along the waterways to be excellent. "I had never held a fishing pole in my hand before," said Tully, who was raised in the Chicago area, "and I was catching grayling in Beaver Creek on every cast!"

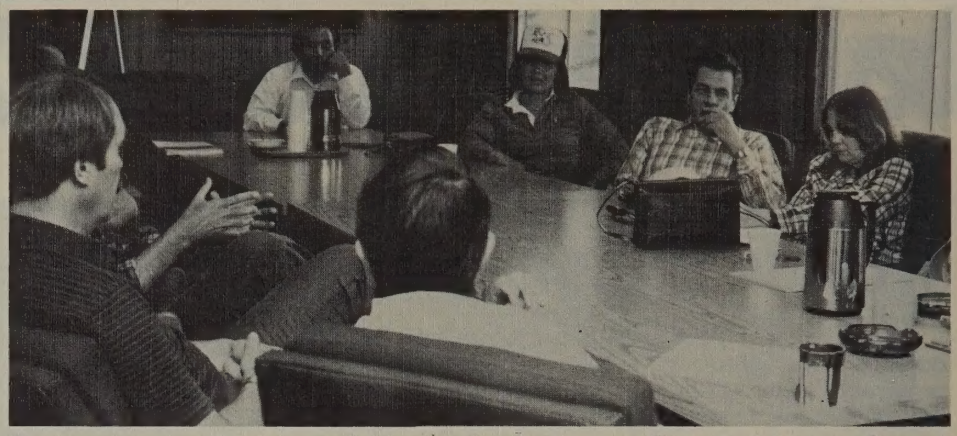
The Student Conservation Association program, which provides students as volunteer seasonal staff for public and private natural resource management agencies throughout the United States, has only been used in the Fairbanks District Office for the past four years. During that time many volunteer hours have been contributed by young college students who receive transportation to and from Alaska, a free room, and a stipend allowance of $87 per week.

While this is not exactly a money-making project, the students almost unanimously, have felt that the job experience has been worth the effort. Undoubtedly, it may put each one a step higher in the competitive field when applying for jobs after graduation.

BLM does pay a portion of the expenses for each student, but the benefits far exceed the cost. This year, with only four students, a total of 2,080 hours were worked for BLM/FDO in volunteer status. Either way you look at it, both sides benefit from this exciting program.

What Is An Advisory Council?

by Joette Storm



During the recent advisory field trip, the Anchorage District Advisory Council members met with the AHTNA Native Corporation. (l to r) AHTNA spokesperson Larry Lau and advisory council members June Degnan, Bob Arwezon and Sally Suddock.

Would you like to give Uncle Sam a piece of your mind? That is just what BLM advisory council members do; they share their opinions and reactions with agency managers.

Citizen advisory councils are key players in the game of public involvement in decisionmaking. Appointed for most of the Bureau's districts, the councils are usually comprised of 10 members who represent various categories or types of land use. Their role is to provide advice to the district manager and his staff on district programs. Members serve without pay and may be called upon several times a year for a formal meeting.

The Anchorage District Office has had a council for more than a dozen years. Current membership includes three public-at-large positions and one each for renewable resources, non-renewable resources, wildlife, transportation and rights-of-way, environmental protection, recreation, and elected local government.

Before they can offer advice, council members spend a fair amount of time learning about the agency. "It is one of the vehicles we have to educate the public about our role and responsibility," says Wayne Boden, Anchorage District manager. "We hope that the council members share what they learn with others in the community, passing on information to their colleagues."

Often a manager will ask a council for recommendations on a particular program or seek their reaction to a proposal. And sometimes a council can get right to the heart of a controversial issue, as the Anchorage council did in 1984 when it considered the issue of allowing motorized use of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

As one of two agencies which require a permit for competitive and commercial events along the trail, BLM found itself caught between traditionalists, who sought to prohibit a motorized race, and motormushers, who wanted to experience the challenge of the famed trail. Since so many Alaskans had emotional attachment to the trail, it seemed important to facilitate public participation in the decisionmaking process. Noting the council's interest in the issue, Boden asked them to discuss it at a regular meeting.

Since every advisory council meeting is open to the public, advocates and opponents of the snowmachine race signed up to give their opinion to the council. For seven hours council members Sally Suddock, Robert Arwezon, Dennie Bromley, John Norman, Janet Fredericks, Hope Nelson, and David Spencer listened.

Arwezon, a former dog musher, agonized over the issue, saying his heart was with the sled dog racers who feared encounters with high speed machines and the loss of the last little bit of tradition. However, he recognized the snowmachine group also had a right to use the public land.

After proposing a delayed start for the motorized race and agreeing to staff recommendations on safety measures, the council recommended that BLM allow the mechanized event.

For Arwezon that was one of the more satisfying times he has spent as a council member. "By allowing the public to testify and vent their feelings on the issue, we acted as a sounding board for them. I believe they felt they were treated equally regardless of what side they were on," he says. "The people felt more comfortable talking to the council."

A sense of providing a service is not always experienced by the council, admits the Anchorage realtor. Too often the council is presented an issue after policy has been made and only for information purposes. At those times the members feel frustration — a frustration he believes they share with many BLM employees.

"Being on the council can be rewarding if we can see some of our recommendations put in place," Arwezon adds. He encourages BLM managers not to view the council as a stumbling block but as a tool that will help them do a better job.

There are issues the council would like to tackle, such as easement management, that never seem to be ready for their consideration. They fear policy will be made in Washington and brought to them after the fact rather than being crafted with their assistance and perspective.

To Sally Suddock that would be a mistake "because the council consists of people from different political and professional persuasions who are chartered to communicate with one another and to identify logical and fair solutions.

"The exercise benefits everyone involved because it requires people to stay in touch with other points of view," she adds. "And council members aren't limited in identifying alternatives by the notion 'we've always done it this way.'"

June Degnan, a busy land use planner for a Native corporation, has to travel all the way from Unalakleet to attend council meetings. She has chosen to serve on one state commission as well as the district council because she feels compelled to represent Alaska Natives in the development of policy for Alaska lands. "It is really no different than the choice I make to keep my home in order," says Degnan. "Alaska is my home and I must take care of it."

She says she enjoys working with the others on the council and with BLM staff because it is a way of developing common ground that will serve to make problem solving easier.

Speaking in his role as public servant, Boden says he highly values the time council members spend on BLM business. "They all are very busy people, but they take their role seriously."

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TIS' THE SEASON TO PICK HEALTH PLANS

Have you been thinking about changing your health benefits plan? Are you not enrolled in a plan but would like to be? Now is the time.

The 1986 Open Season on Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) will begin November 4 and run through December 6, 1985. Any employee who is eligible to receive health benefits may participate in the Open Season.

This is the only time of year when an employee may change from not enrolled to enrolled or from one plan to another.

The Branch of Personnel (952) will issue comparison charts, 1986 Premium Rates and other information as soon as it is received from the Office of Personnel Management. Many plans have changed their coverages for 1986 — some adding, some deleting — and many have lower employee premiums for the next calendar year.

Elections and changes made during the 1986 Open Season will be effective January 5, 1986. Be sure to plan your changes carefully and consistent with your medical needs.

While making decisions about your FEHB coverage, you may wish to consider the additional insurance offered by the Interior Department Recreation Association (IDRA). Called the Supplemental Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), this additional insurance reimburses you for the percentage of fees which are not covered by your primary FEHB plan. In order to enroll in SHIP you must become an IDRA member. The membership fee is a mere $3.50 per year in addition to the nominal SHIP premium. Retirees as well as current employees may enroll in the SHIP program. Brochures are available in the Branch of Personnel.

If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Schmidt at 271-3683.

BLM Library
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Denver, CO 80225

Interagency Team Speeds Payments For Fire Services

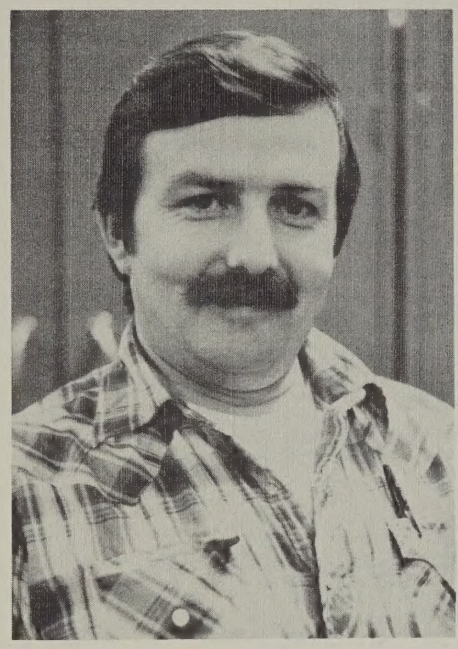
ASO's Del Starner and four other federal employees from the National Park Service, Forest Service and BLM have been busy traveling throughout the west paying off this summer's fire fighting bills.

The team was established last spring as an administrative resource to process payments with U.S. Treasury checks to vendors in communities where large fires created a heavy need for local services. Payments went to stores and individuals providing supplies and equipment and to persons who served in the fire emergency.

"We paid $810,000 in Nevada for BLM fires in the Winnemucca area," said team leader Marcia Blazak. More recently the team was sent to Salmon, Idaho, to pay off the debts incurred by the Butte fire. Five days in Salmon resulted in payments of $1,060,000, bringing the team's total for the year to more than $1.8 million. "Cost estimates for the Butte fire ran as high as $10 million," said Blazak. "Equipment was very expensive. A D-6 cat cost $94 an hour, and most had two crews working the equipment 24 hours a day. A 6,000 gallon water tanker cost $65 an hour, and a flatbed truck cost $39 a day," said Blazek.

"Members of the team were all administrative professionals with a total of 116 years of experience. We are called upon when needed to take the burden of the deluge of paperwork off the federal agency involved," says Blazak.

Del Starner added, "Everybody we talked to or worked with was very happy to have us help relieve them of some of their heavy workload. All agencies we dealt with were comfortable with us because someone from their own agency was represented on our team." Starner went on to say, "I appreciated the opportunity to be part of the team, and I'm thankful that my supervisor let me go. It throws an additional workload on the other members of the section when I'm gone, and I appreciate their help."



Del Starner

When You Meet A Wheelchair User...

1. Do not hold on to a person's wheelchair. It is part of the person's body space. Hanging or leaning on the chair is similar to hanging or leaning on a person sitting in a chair.

2. Offer assistance if you wish, but do not insist. If a person needs your help (s)he will accept your offer and tell you exactly what will be helpful.

3. Talk directly to the person using the wheelchair, not to a third party. The person is not helpless or unable to talk.

4. Don't be sensitive about using words like "walking" or "running." People using wheelchairs use the same words.

5. Be alert to the existence of architectural barriers when selecting a restaurant, home, theater or other facility you want to visit with a wheelchair user.

6. If conversation proceeds more than a few minutes and it is possible to do so, consider sitting down in order to share eye level. It is uncomfortable for a seated person to look straight up for a long period.

The BLM coordinator for employment of the handicapped is Doris M. Hill in the Office of Personnel. Ms. Hill works with representatives of the EEO Office to insure that employment possibilities for disabled applicants are maximized and assists supervisors in recruitment and successful job placement for the handicapped. For more information please call Doris at 271-5043.

Don't Wait Until Your Health Becomes A Problem

We are all faced with challenges. Many of us need assistance in dealing with:

- Financial difficulties
- Marriage problems
- Addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Depression
- Stress
- Problems of the aged
- Legal questions
- Health issues
- Consumer problems
- and many others

Help is just a phone call away. A counselor is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call HUMAN AFFAIRS, INC. at 562-0794. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

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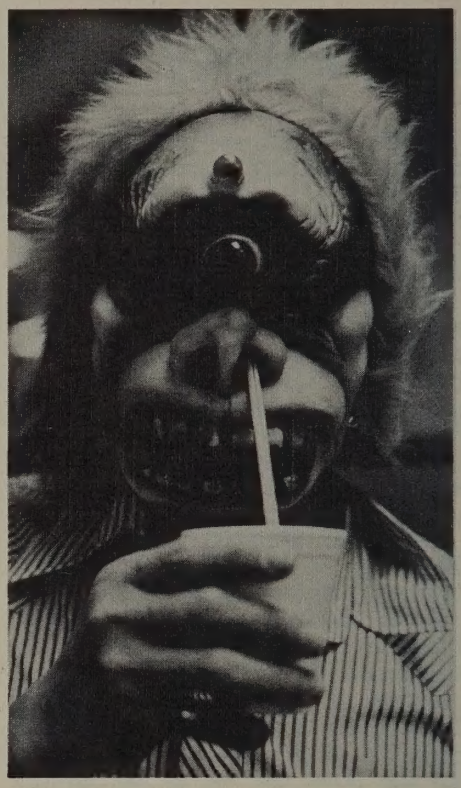

Boo! Watch out — Halloween is almost here bringing out all sorts of spooks and goblins.

Personal Notes

ASO's Terese Bertini is the proud mom of the 1985 City of Anchorage and State of Alaska three wheeler motorcross champion in the 200 cc class. Her son Shane, age 15, has only been racing a year but already has 52 trophys to his name. Sponsered by Hartley Motors of Wasilla, and by mom and dad, the motorcross races have taken him all over the state.

Our sympathy is with the family of BLM cadastral employee Wallace E. "Duck" Smith, who died September 19 at Providence Hospital. Born April 26, 1929, in Kentucky, he spent 17 years in BLM survey camps throughout Alaska after which he became a field surveys logistics coordinator for Cadastral. He is survived by his wife, Hope, of Anchorage; his son Garrett of Seward; and two brothers and four sisters in Kentucky.

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